

OKINAWA MARINE

OCTOBER 12, 2012

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Philippine, US Marines begin PHIBLEX 2013

Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades

MCAS IWAKUNI

SUBIC BAY, Republic of the Philippines — The Amphibious Landing Exercise 2013 opening ceremony took place aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 8.

More than 300 U.S. Marines and sailors and service members from the armed forces of the Philippines gathered to commemorate the 29th iteration of the bilateral and interagency training exercise, which gives both militaries a chance to train together on a wide range of capabilities, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

“PHIBLEX 2013 is an opportunity, a venue and an exchange of professional expertise and technological advancement between the Philippine Navy, Air Force, Army, local government units, defense leaders and our counterparts, the see **PHIBLEX** pg 5



Completely surrounded by natural Philippine vegetation, Cpl. Jeremy Russow, right, crouches beside a Philippine Marine while constructing a hide site at Crow Valley, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 9. Russow is an assistant team leader with scout sniper platoon, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Philippine Marine is with special operations platoon, 3rd Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps. Photo by Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood



Members of Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Okinawa perform at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa's Hispanic Heritage Month observance at Camp Lester Oct. 5. They danced as part of an observance for Hispanic Heritage Month to increase the awareness of Hispanic service members and their contributions. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines and sailors across Okinawa have been observing Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Sept. 15 across Okinawa.

Observances have taken place on all Marine Corps installations, as well as U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

The monthlong celebration honors the many contributions made by the Hispanic community. It originally began see **HERITAGE** pg 5

Marines deploy to New Caledonia

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP SCHWAB — Approximately 90 Marines deployed Oct. 11 for Exercise Croix du Sud 2012, which takes place in New Caledonia.

Croix du Sud, which means “southern cross” in French, is a multilateral exercise hosted by the French armed forces in New Caledonia and will involve two U.S. Marine Corps platoons with III Marine Expeditionary Force, members of the FANC, and a company with the Australian Defence Force.

Other nations with varying levels of involvement in Croix du Sud 2012 include the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Kingdom of Tonga. Japan will be observing the exercise.

The Marines are with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the see **CROIX** pg 5

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Voices heard through voting

Capt. Brad L. Hull

Service members have distinguished themselves by volunteering to serve their country and defend its freedom throughout a decade-long time of crisis shaped by significant combat operations and contingencies around the globe. We have been entrusted with the defense of our nation, and we carry a personal interest in determining our republic's future with our vote.

It is our inherent responsibility to elect leaders who share our determined will, dedication and patriotism and who are best qualified to lead our nation through an uncertain future.

This year will have a tremendous impact on our nation with the office of the president, 33 seats in the Senate, 435

seats in the House of Representatives, and the governorships of 11 states and two U.S. territories up for election. The officials we elect will directly affect our livelihood and future by determining our promotions, our service branch mission, general-level leadership, and how our forces are committed.

As a naturalized citizen, the right to vote is especially meaningful to me. Voting allows me to do my part as a citizen to uphold the rights and freedoms our country has represented for the past two-and-a-half centuries. Voting embodies all that America represents and is the true mark of an American citizen.

Our nation has endured over the years because its valiant people have refused to tolerate foreign rule. This principle of self-determination has been stalwartly defended by past service members and paid for in blood to ensure future generations will have the ability to determine our nation's future rather than a foreign king or dictator.

Although service members are unquestionably dedicated to our country and its democratic ideals, there are some factors which detract from a 100 percent voter

turnout among our military forces. The mistaken belief that their vote will not make a difference is a factor in some personnel not voting. This idea has proved erroneous in many elections where the margin of victory consisted of a fraction of a percent, such as the 2000 presidential election, which saw narrow margins for electoral votes in New Mexico and Florida, the 2004 Washington governor's election, and the 2008 Minnesota senate election.

Service members who have been away from their home state for some time may feel detached from current local or state issues and candidates. The internet is a great

resource for renewing familiarity with local issues and researching candidates in order to pick the candidate you feel will best represent your

interests. The Marine Corps is dedicated to ensuring its warriors have the education and tools necessary to do their part in maintaining our nation's democratic ideals. To this end, voting assistance officers at every unit enable service members and their families to place their votes.

When checking in with a command's voting assistance officer, a service member will usually be asked to complete a federal post card application voter registration and absentee ballot request form. Alternatively, at any time, a service member may register to vote online at www.fvap.gov by following the easy and user friendly step by step instructions. This website should be accessed on a computer with printer access to allow you to print out your registration or absentee ballot request. As always, should you have any questions or concerns with this process your unit's voting assistance officer will be happy to assist you.

Hull is the voting assistance officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"Voting embodies all that America represents and is the true mark of an American citizen."



THE AROUND CORPS



Two F-35B Joint Strike Fighters conduct the first aerial refueling with a KC-130J Hercules in the sky above Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Oct. 2. Aerial refueling operations with the F-35B had previously been conducted with test aircraft. "It's great to start to expand our operational capability in the context of working with the Marine Air-Ground Task Force," said Lt. Col. David Berke, who commands the F-35B squadron, Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, at Eglin. Photo by Cpl. Brian A. Jones



Cpl. Colton Duran hugs his wife Cathia during a homecoming ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Oct. 2. More than 100 Marines with Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2 returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. Duran is an aircraft mechanic with the squadron, a part of Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen Stewart



Lance Cpl. Steve Fillmore provides security for his unit's patrol through Trek Nawa, Afghanistan, Sept. 27. The Marines work with the Afghan soldiers who provide security for the region from Patrol Base Lambadand. Fillmore is a anti-tank missileman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, Regional Command Southwest. Photo by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

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OKINAWA MARINE

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NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

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SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

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Reserve program provides incentives

Pfc. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marine administrative message 462/12 was recently signed into effect to aid first-term enlisted Marines and company-grade officers with transitioning into Marine Forces Reserve upon their completion of active-duty service.

The MARADMIN introduces the direct affiliation program, which helps eligible Marines transition into the reserve by providing health care benefits, allowing Marines to choose a duty station, and giving corporals and below an added 60 points toward their composite scores for promotion.

First-term active-duty enlisted Marines who have been denied further service and are eligible for honorable discharge can apply for the program. Company-grade officers not offered or declining career designation and approved for a reserve commission may also apply.

"The goal of the program is to aid in a smooth transition for active-duty Marines to the reserve with no break in service," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert D. Noyes, the reserve transition coordinator, reserve liaison office, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

One benefit the program provides is a health care option, which gives eligible married and single Marines an opportunity to retain TRICARE Prime for free during their first six months in the reserve. After six months, the plan will convert to TRICARE Reserve Select and will cost \$53 for single Marines and \$197 for those with families.

"Upon the end of active-duty service, Marines often do not consider the cost of medical insurance," said Noyes. "Because of this, the TRICARE program is very valuable. Medical coverage for Marines not utilizing this program can cost more than \$500 a month."

The direct affiliation program also allows Marines to know in advance where their reserve units will be, allowing them to take into account location when selecting a home of residence.

"A Marine can pick a reserve unit in a location they want," said Noyes. "There is no competition. The only factor is (there must be) billets currently available at reserve units."

In addition to the health care and guaranteed duty stations, corporals and below can get 60 bonus points added to their composite scores, which helps Marines get promoted.

The program is open to the first 100 Marines to apply and be approved. Results will be evaluated and if successful, the program will be relaunched with greater opportunities for participation. As of Oct. 5, four Marines currently on Okinawa have taken advantage of the direct affiliation program.

"Through the program, I will be receiving free health care for six months when I get to my new reserve unit," said Cpl. Neil P. Higgins, a motor vehicle operator with 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. "It is allowing me to start my new career while continuing to serve in the Marine Corps."

To apply, Marines can talk to their career retention specialists, local reserve transition coordinators or contact the local program coordinator at 622-6004.

2012

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Small projects, big impact

Camp Butler reduces water, energy use

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP BUTLER — October is energy awareness month, a national event designed to raise awareness of the impact energy and water use has on the environment and the economy, while educating the public on how to reduce consumption.

The Energy Engineering and Consulting Services, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, is initiating several projects designed to help accomplish its goal to reduce electricity and water usage here.

"Our goal is to reduce the overall consumption of energy by Marines on Okinawa 30 percent by 2015," said Charles Chen, resource efficiency manager with Energy Engineering and Consulting Services. "We also aim to reduce the consumption of potable water, water that is safe for drinking, showering and cleaning, by 16 percent."

One of MCB Camp Butler's projects is the advanced metering infrastructure.

"The AMI is a project to install 188 advanced electrical meters on our camps in addition to adding four advanced water meters and a digital water meter allowing us to have better visibility on consumption," said Lubka Robertson, energy manager, G-F, Facilities, MCB Camp Butler.

Another significant project that will affect MCB Camp Butler is the water leak survey, designed to identify any leaks in distribution lines.

By identifying all water leaks, facilities can take corrective actions to repair them, which

should have a substantial impact on water and utility cost savings, according to Tomoko Matsuzaki, mechanical engineer, G-F, Facilities.

"Another project we are implementing is the chiller (the cooling mechanism on air conditioner units) replacement with energy efficient systems," said Matsuzaki. "We are working on replacing chillers with oil-free magnetic bearing compressor chillers and control systems with building efficiency improvements."

"The aim for this project is to implement state of the art technology for chillers with environmental controls. Each (chiller) will be sized according to the size of the facility, and operate efficiently, reducing energy consumption and costs."

This year, MCB Camp Butler reduced energy use approximately 1 percent from the previous year and reduced water usage 9 percent, according to Chen.

"With our projects in place, we hope to reduce water and electricity use as well as protect the environment by lowering greenhouse gas emissions," said Robertson. "Greenhouse gases contribute to climate changes that have negative impacts on the planet and its living species; less greenhouse gases means cleaner air and an overall healthier environment."

Projects such as AMI, replacement of chillers and others will help the Marines and sailors on Okinawa reach their economic and environmental goals.



BRIEFS**REGISTER NOW FOR FALL SESSION 2**

University of Maryland University College's fall session 2 is about to begin. Those considering starting or finishing their education can contact the Marine Corps Community Services Education Center to help guide them through the process. Fall session 2 runs Oct. 22 through Dec. 16.

2012 COLLEGE NIGHT

The Department of Defense Education Activity is seeking volunteers from the community to represent their colleges at the 2012 College Night Fair at Kadena High School Nov. 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for Kubasaki and Kadena High School students.

The sign-up deadline is Oct. 22. Volunteers can sign up online at www.okinawacollegenight.com.

TRUNK OR TREAT OCT. 27, 6-8 P.M.

Volunteers interested in decorating their vehicles for the annual Camp Foster Fright Night "Trunk or Treat" Oct. 27 from 6-8 p.m. should call 645-5711 or 645-9802 by Oct. 24 to register.

BREAST HEALTH CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa's breast health center is hosting an open house Oct. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to spread awareness of the importance of preventative care. There will be educational material, food and prizes. For more information, contact 643-7365.

OPERATION HOMEFRONT ACCEPTING MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Operation Homefront, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emergency financial and other assistance to military families, is accepting nominations for the Military Child of the Year awards through Dec. 15. Winners will be recognized in April 2013.

Awards are presented to outstanding children from each branch of service who demonstrate resilience and strength of character and thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

For more details, or to nominate a child, visit MilitaryChildoftheYear.org.

REGULATIONS FOR HEADPHONE USE

For safety and compliance with regulations, wearing headphones, earphones or other listening devices while operating a vehicle, jogging, running, walking, skateboarding, roller-skating, or bicycling on or along streets and roadways on Marine Corps installations or out in town is prohibited, except for on specifically approved locations.

For more information, see MCBJ/IIIMEFO 1050.7A or contact the Marine Corps Installations Pacific safety office at 645-2651.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Killin elementary encourages literacy

Pfc. Terence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Students and their families participated in a literacy night event with teachers and faculty at the E.C. Killin Elementary School gymnasium at Camp Foster Oct. 4.

While children frequently have opportunities to read at school, it can be very difficult to find the time to read with their families. E.C. Killin Elementary is making strides to fix that problem.

The event was organized to bring students and parents together and promote the school's new "One School, One Book" program, a school-wide book club in which families are all given the same book and asked to read a chapter at their home nightly during October.

"Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares your child to be an effective reader," said E.C. Killin Principal Reynaldo Toquero. "Children benefit from listening to material that is beyond their own reading level. Parents play an instrumental role by reading that material out loud to their children."

"Marines spend a lot of time away from home," said Staff Sgt. Leon R. Hatcher, a supply administration and operations specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It's good because I get to read (with) my kids after coming back from deployment."

The program was conceived earlier this year by the school's faculty, who collaborated with



Kaoru Uza reads "Frindle" in Japanese to the audience during the literacy night event at E.C. Killin Elementary School at Camp Foster Oct. 4. The school suggested that it was important to understand how American literature is interpreted and read in Japanese. Uza is a culture teacher at the school.

Photo by Pfc. Terence G. Brady

parents to plan literacy night, a kick-off event for the book club. Volunteers distributed copies of the book "Frindle" to each family, asking students and parents to read together for about 15 minutes each night.

"The teachers did a lot of work to get the books and organize the program," said Toquero.

The parent-teacher organization provided funding to purchase the books.

"The event had a very good turnout," said Chief Warrant Officer Bryan N. Collver, a finance officer with 3rd MLG, III MEF.

"My son was very enthusiastic about the event, and I hope he's excited about the program too."

School administrators brought families together in an assembly to explain the purpose of the book club.

"This program will improve family bonding and show that families can spend time to read together," said Michelle Jones, the school's assistant principal. "We are working together as a community to accomplish this goal."

During the literacy night event, teachers acted out the story in front of the audience as the parents read along with their children.

"The whole school is going to read this book," said Aden J. Leggil, a fourth-grade student at the school. "I like that because I'm looking forward to talking about it with the class."

Volunteers read the book in both English and Japanese to show the audience the cultural differences between the two adaptations of the story.

"Tonight was a good opportunity to hear the book from the Japanese perspective," said Kaoru Uza, a culture teacher for the school. "Today, I hope the children will be introduced to more Japanese culture."

Educators ultimately hope the literacy night event and book club serve as a launching pad for students to develop a pattern of reading.

"Our vision is that everyone can be lifelong readers," said Toquero. "We hope to show families that learning is a lifelong event and Marines can use this program to continue reading to their children."



Teachers with E.C. Killin Elementary School act out a part of the book "Frindle" during the school's literacy night event at Camp Foster Oct. 4. Educators wanted to show the audience the importance of reading aloud as a family and the fun they can have engaging in interactive storytelling. Photo by Pfc. Terence G. Brady

Marines give career support to officers



Col. Jay M. Barger, left, and Lt. Col. Todd P. Simmons, middle, explain career options to Col. Stephen J. Gabri at Camp Foster Oct. 8. Marines with Manpower Management Officer Assignments met with officers stationed on Okinawa to evaluate and assist them with career progression and development. "Our job is to make sure officers are placed in billets that are right for them," said Barger. "We figure out what the officers want to do, but the needs of the Marine Corps ultimately determine where their career will develop." Barger is a ground colonel monitor, and Simmons is a ground lieutenant colonel monitor with MMOA, Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Gabri is the chief of staff, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Pfc. Terence G. Brady

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as Hispanic Heritage week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded to Hispanic Heritage Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to celebrate the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Chile and Nicaragua.

"The purpose of these observances is to enlighten and expand the awareness of the Marines in regards to Hispanic culture," said Master Sgt. Audrey J. Ellis, the equal opportunities advisor for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

During this year's observances, there was a dance troupe, a poetry reading and a guest speaker, each highlighting a different aspect in diversity, according to Ellis.

"The message here is 'diversity united,'" said Col. Michael E. Langley, the assistant division commander, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "It is up to every Marine to preach it and continue bringing everyone together."

The USNH Okinawa staff joined the Marines in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a luncheon.

"We organized a luncheon observance to be in line with the naval administrative message that recently was released," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher R. Peterson, the command sponsorship coordinator for the hospital. "We also wanted to show the contribution of Hispanics currently in the military service and also in the past."

The commanding officer of USNH Okinawa, Navy Capt. Pius Aiyelawo, prioritized the awareness effort, according to Peterson.

"Diversity is very important to the commanding officer," said Peterson. "He is an immigrant himself, so he took this to heart in making sure this was highly noticed."

Highlighting Hispanic heritage not only emphasizes diversity, but helps Marines and sailors understand another culture and better understand each other.

"By learning about different (cultures) you will be a better leader and a better person," said Langley.



Marines with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, prepare their gear for Exercise Croix du Sud 2012 at Camp Schwab Oct. 5. Croix du Sud is a multilateral exercise hosted by the French armed forces in New Caledonia, and will involve two U.S. Marine Corps platoons with III Marine Expeditionary Force, members of the FANC, and a company with the Australian Defence Force, as well as members of six other nations with varying levels of involvement. 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

CROIX from pg 1

unit deployment program, and 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF.

"The purpose of this training is to build interoperability, enhance regional stability, and increase the readiness of U.S., allied and partner militaries to respond to the full spectrum of crises and contingencies," said 1st Lt. Forrest L. Martin, a platoon commander with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines.

The Marines will train with small-arms and machine guns while deployed, according to Sgt. Guillermo L. Fargus, a platoon sergeant with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines.

In addition to the weapons training, the militaries will execute helicopter-borne operations.

"We will also be conducting humanitarian and disaster relief and noncombatant evacuation

operations (training) via helicopter, partnering with the foreign militaries," said Fargus.

The Marines will work with the French service members and practice squad and platoon operations and hope to improve their continuously evolving small-unit tactics.

"I look forward to working with the different countries, (both) learning and teaching," said Lance Cpl. David C. Poynter, a radio operator with 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines. "I hope to pass on my knowledge to the other militaries as well as gain knowledge of what they are doing."

Fargus expects his Marines to uphold the high reputation of the Marine Corps during the training exercise.

"I expect my Marines to perform like we have been throughout our whole deployment," said Fargus. "They have done a great job, and they will continue to do the same in New Caledonia."

PHIBLEX from pg 1

United States Marine Corps," said AFP Brigadier Gen. Remigio C. Valdez, exercise director for PHIBLEX 2013.

The 10-day exercise will be conducted by 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and units of all four services of the AFP. PHIBLEX 2013 is scheduled to include air raids, artillery training, beach landings, engineering civic action projects, community health engagements, a staff planning exercise and a final live-fire exercise utilizing tactics and capabilities of both the U.S. and AFP.

"We are building relationships with our Philippine counterparts that will prove beneficial to all," said Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, commanding general, 3rd MEB. "We are aiming at improving the capabilities of the Philippine and U.S. Marines and continuing to strengthen the ties between our two nations."

Seaman Greg C. Tramble, center, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Albert Wilson, right, pitch in for the east team at the annual tug-of-war in downtown Naha Oct. 7. Tramble is a hospital corpsman with U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, and Wilson is the maintenance chief of 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.



An actor representing the west team performs ritual karate demonstrations before the annual tug-of-war in downtown Naha Oct. 7. Marines and sailors with the single Marine program volunteered at the event. Both the east and west teams performed karate demonstrations before the event began.



The annual ritual preceding the tug-of-war is carried out in downtown Naha Oct. 7. The ritual included karate demonstrations, fireworks and dancing.

Revelers celebrate during the 42nd annual Naha Tug-of-War in downtown Naha Oct. 7. The tug-of-war represents the battle between separate dynasties during the reign of the Ryukyu Kingdom in Okinawa in the 15th Century.

Tug-of-war brings local community, Marines together

Story and photos by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Checking in at 200 meters long and 43 tons when assembled, the rope is the largest in the world. It stretches between two blocks in downtown Naha, Okinawa, and is nearly as wide as a traffic lane.

The only logical thing to do with such an exceptionally behemoth braid is to hold the world's largest tug-of-war.

That is exactly what the citizens of Okinawa, service members of U.S. Forces Japan and tourists from around the world did Oct. 7 at the 42nd annual Naha Tug-of-War, or Naha Tsunahiki as it is known in Japanese, at the Naha Matsuri Festival.

"It was a very fun event, and not just for the Japanese and Americans, but for people from all countries," said Shota Kawamitsu, a volunteer with the American Chamber of Commerce in Okinawa.

"They came here and got to be part of the tradition (and it is) a gateway to introduce people to Okinawan heritage."

The heritage of the tug-of-war and the festival celebration date back to the 15th century, when the Ryukyu Kingdom ruled Okinawa and other Ryukyu islands. The battle between separate dynasties during the reign of the Ryukyu Kingdom is represented by the opposing sides during the tug-of-war.

Marines participating in the single Marine program of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific joined volunteers of the American Chamber of Commerce in Okinawa to help U.S. service members and other tourists participate in the event.

The volunteers helped bridge the language gap, providing a resource to allow foreign participants a chance to understand the intricacies of the event and fully participate alongside the Okinawans, according to Mike Holland, education committee chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in Okinawa.

The tug-of-war was preceded by a ritual display

that included fireworks, dancing and karate demonstrations.

"The culture is very rich here in Okinawa, and an event like this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience it," said Cpl. Doris Rubio, vice president for the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma single Marine program, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC. "We are stationed here (between two and three years), and it is important that we get out and explore the island."

For the volunteers helping stage the event, the competition provided not only a chance to witness Okinawan culture, but a chance to take an active role in it.

"(Volunteering) shows that we love Okinawa and the culture here and want to be part of it," said Holland.

Following the ritual display, the two 100-meter lengths of rope were connected. On the main body of the rope, smaller ropes were attached and distributed to the crowd to be used as hand-holds during the tug-of-war. Hand-holds provided each participant a grip to pull on during the event.

The tens of thousands in the crowd were organized into an east and west team and attempted to move the rope five meters in order to claim victory. If neither side succeeded in pulling the rope five meters, the team who moved the rope the furthest at the end of 30 minutes would be declared victorious.

During the competition, the volunteers also served a much more critical role while the densely packed crowd attempted to move the 43-ton mass, added Holland.

"Without the volunteers, we could have many problems with tourists getting hurt," said Holland. "We have made the event safer ... all the tourists now know what's going on and feel more comfortable knowing that (the volunteers) are here to answer any questions they have."

Following the tug-of-war, participants were invited to take a piece of the rope home with them, an act traditionally believed to bring good luck to the rope's new owner.

The volunteers were issued small folding saws



Cpl. Nanci Espinoza hands out pieces of rope following the conclusion of the tug-of-war in downtown Naha, Okinawa, Oct. 7. A piece of rope is believed to bring good luck to its owner. Espinoza is a supply administration and operation specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and an event volunteer.

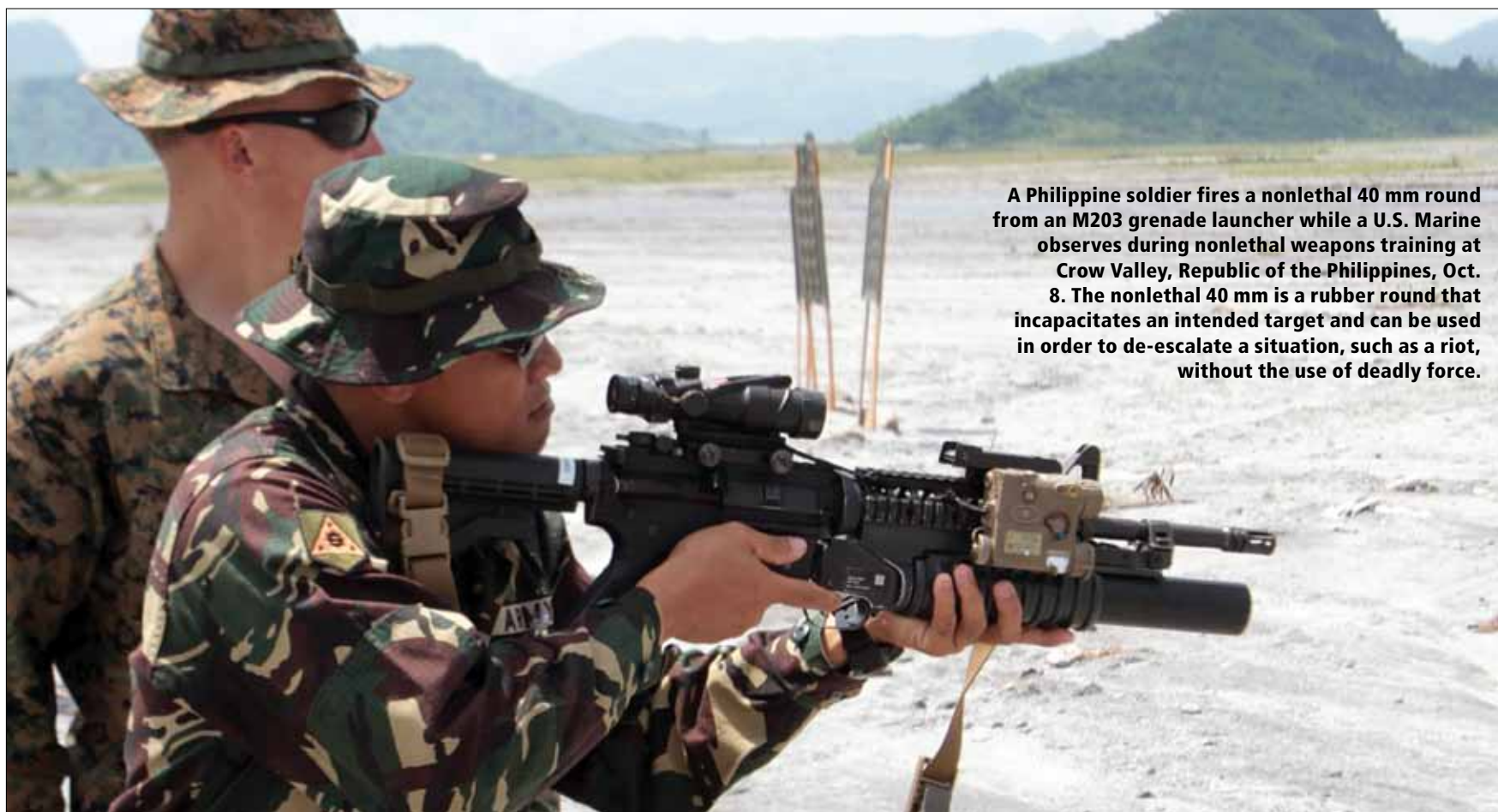
to cut off lengths of rope and hand the lengths out to the crowd, negating the need for the crowd to bring their own knives and potentially create an unsafe environment with a large number of people attempting to cut the ropes on their own, according to Holland.

At the end of the 2012 tug-of-war, the west team claimed victory, having moved the rope one meter off of its starting point.

"It was a great time; everyone came together for the event," said Cpl. Nanci Espinoza, a supply administration and operation specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF, and volunteer at the event.



The rope is moved into place before the annual tug-of-war in downtown Naha Oct. 7. The rope, which weighs 43 tons and stretches 200 meters when assembled, is the largest in the world. Marines and sailors with the single Marine program volunteered at the event.



A Philippine soldier fires a nonlethal 40 mm round from an M203 grenade launcher while a U.S. Marine observes during nonlethal weapons training at Crow Valley, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 8. The nonlethal 40 mm is a rubber round that incapacitates an intended target and can be used in order to de-escalate a situation, such as a riot, without the use of deadly force.

Philippine, US service members go nonlethal

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood
31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

Digging into the sand, deep in the volcano-scarred valley, warriors from opposite sides of the world came together to learn nonlethal weaponry.

Marines and sailors with maritime raid force, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III MEF, trained alongside Philippine Marines and soldiers. The MRF and 71st Reconnaissance Company, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, sharpened skills in nonlethal weapons and tactics Oct. 8 as part of Amphibious Landing Exercise 2013.

Nonlethal capabilities provide service members another option of force by reducing potential loss of life and collateral damage. Due to their unique skills and missions, MRF Marines may find themselves needing this capability during regular operations.

"We provide external security for blocking positions and for the raid force going on to a site," said Sgt. Matthew Hart, a squad leader with MRF platoon, 2/1. "It is important for us to understand that we cannot always use lethal force for every situation and to know that these tactics can be just as effective."

The service members trained on five weapon systems, all with enough force to slow or stop a target. They practiced using the X26 taser, FN 303 compressed-air rifle, Stingball grenade, rubber shotgun rounds and nonlethal 40 mm ammunition.

"With this training underneath our belts, we have another way to prevent situations from escalating," said Cpl. Kenneth Bubier, a squad leader with Company G, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines.

The X26 taser is a handheld weapon that launches two tethered barbs, delivering 50,000 volts through a target's body. The FN



Sgt. Daniel Vallejo fires a nonlethal rubber shotgun round at a target during nonlethal weapons training with Philippine Marines and soldiers at Crow Valley, Republic of the Philippines, Oct. 8. The training was held during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2013, which gives members of the Philippine armed forces and U.S. Marines and sailors the opportunity to train alongside each other during a variety of events. Vallejo is a squad leader with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

303 delivers a blunt impact oleoresin cap-sicum round. The Stingball grenade, larger than a fragmentation grenade, projects rubber pellets that can strike multiple targets simultaneously. Fired from a shotgun, the nonlethal rounds deliver blunt trauma to the target, effectively suppressing the individual. The nonlethal 40 mm munitions, the largest of the four rounds fired from an M203 grenade launcher, send a rubber round to the target.

"These weapon systems are something that my Marines do not work with often," said Master Sgt. Narciso Aromin, a platoon sergeant with 71st Reconnaissance Company, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army. "Having

this training gives us the ability to use these weapon systems, allowing us to stop riots or situations from escalating."

The Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU will continue to participate in PHIBLEX 2013 alongside their Philippine Marine counterparts to further improve interoperability and maintain their long-standing relationship.

"Training with the Philippine Marines and soldiers is something my Marines don't get the chance to do often and some may never get the chance to do again," said Hart. "It is interesting learning the ways they train. We actually come up with some interesting ways of doing things after training with them."

Awareness month recognizes service members with disabilities

Pfc. Anne K. Henry
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Living with a disability can be a challenge for service members, a challenge that can be greatly intensified when they transition from the active ranks to the civilian sector.

National disability employment awareness month, which began Oct. 1, focuses on raising awareness of the employment challenges individuals living with disabilities face.

"This month puts the issues of employees living with disabilities up front," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Rafika O. Vann, the equal opportunity advisor with III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It educates us on topics we normally would not be familiar with."

National disability employment awareness month was first officially recognized by the U.S. congress in 1945. The annual awareness initiative was originally observed during the first week of October and was expanded to an entire month in 1988.

The month not only brings attention to the issues of those with disabilities, but also contributes to mission readiness within the Marine Corps.

Resources such as the Wounded Warrior Regiment allow service members who are currently living with disabilities to get the care they need in order to return to the operational forces.

"Our mission depends on our ability to care for one another," said Vann. "We need to place people in positions where they can understand each other. These individuals want to get back in the fight."

The Wounded Warrior Regiment distributes care to injured Marines, as well as their families. The program helps with a smooth transition back to duty or to civilian life.

"The Wounded Warrior Regiment allows Marines to get the care they need and still serve," said Vann. "The Marines in this program have a lot to offer. When you interact with them, you realize the strength and courage they have and how it is beyond anything many of us have ever seen."

In addition to the Wounded Warrior Regiment, there are several other initiatives dedicated to helping service members living with disabilities.

"There are many programs that help our workers ... whether (the service members are) pending transition from the armed forces or in the application phase of employment and job search," said Susan L. Moyer, an equal opportunity specialist with Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "Such beneficial programs include the program for people with disabilities."

The program for people with disabilities is designed to increase awareness of people with disabilities working in fields involving science, mathematics, engineering and technology education.

National disability employment awareness month was put in place to educate the public about the challenges those living with mental or physical disabilities face and helps raise awareness of important issues that affect mission readiness.

"If we cannot come together, then ultimately we are sacrificing the mission," said Vann.

III MEF will host a national disability employment awareness month observance at the Palms at Camp Hansen Oct. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Lance Cpl. Jonathon M. Sanow and Lance Cpl. Rachel A. Jurado, right, explain their meal presentation to the 3rd Marine Logistics Group command staff, which served as judges, during the Camp Kinser Mess Hall's food service specialist of the quarter competition at Camp Kinser Oct. 4. Sanow and Jurado are both food service specialists with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Competition cultivates creativity

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As Marines filed into the mess hall for lunch, some noticed tables lined with elaborate displays featuring carved pumpkins and eloquently prepared meals, indicating their taste buds were in for a pleasant surprise.

The display was part of the Camp Kinser Mess Hall's food service specialist of the quarter competition at Camp Kinser Oct. 4.

The competition allowed the food service Marines to showcase their culinary skills, according to Gunnery Sgt. Ricardo A. Contreras, manager, Camp Kinser Mess Hall.

"One thing we want to do is to take the winners from the quarterly competitions and send them to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York," said Contreras. "This is something the Marines are striving for because it is an excellent school and an awesome experience."

"There are four two-man teams, one from each platoon of Food Service Company," added Contreras. "(They) prepare a meat, starch, vegetable and pastry. They have four hours to prepare their meals and make a plate presentation for the judges. (Their meals are) judged on taste and presentation."

The cooks were allowed to prepare any dish of their choice for the competition.

"This competition provides us with the opportunity to really cut loose and get creative with what we want to make," said Lance Cpl. Jonathon M. Sanow, a food service specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The competition is highly competitive. We all work with and know each other, and many of (us) have the competitive spirit to put out an excellent dish."

"The only limit we had for this competition in regards to what we could prepare was (being) able to find the ingredients," Sanow continued. "If we could find the food at the mess hall or the commissary, we were allowed to incorporate



Pineapple fried rice waits to be judged during the Camp Kinser Mess Hall food service specialist of the quarter competition at Camp Kinser Oct. 4. Each of the four teams was required to prepare a starch, meat, vegetable and a dessert to be judged.

it into our meal and presentation."

The command staff for 3rd MLG served as judges for the competition.

"The military runs on its stomach, and our Marines enjoy their food," said Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson, 3rd MLG commanding general. "It showed us the ability of our Marines to be creative and put together a series of dishes that both compliment their talents and allow us to have a flavorful experience. I hated not being able to eat everything they had prepared for us."

In the end, Sanow and his teammate Lance Cpl. Rachel A. Jurado won the competition with their surf and turf dinner.

"We put a lot of emphasis on taking pride in what we prepare," said Contreras. "Our title is food service specialist. We are here to provide a service to the Marines, sailors and patrons, so we want to make sure it tastes good. If the cooks put their name in front of the products, they will take more pride in it."

Marines make repairs, enable future training evolutions

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines stationed on Okinawa are no strangers to the sometimes dangerous conditions that come with destructive weather. The island was recently struck by Typhoon Jelawat, which caused damage to various training ranges Marines use in order to maintain their combat effectiveness and mission readiness.

Damage to training areas can be a setback for many units. However, for the Marines of Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, this was both an opportunity to train and a way to prepare ranges for future use by other units.

The battalion, a part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, repaired damaged huts at range 402 in the Central Training Area Oct. 2-5 to enhance proficiency, enable future training evolutions, and build unit cohesion.

"The purpose of the training is to ensure the Marines maintain proficiency in their military occupational specialty," said Gunnery Sgt. Chitty Phouthapadith, the training and current operations chief for the battalion. "In the end, other Marines on Okinawa will be able to use what was repaired by our Marines to train and maintain combat readiness."

The huts can be used in many different ways, according to Sgt. Matthew A. Seamons, a combat engineer with the battalion.

"The huts are temporary structures that can be used to shelter Marines and equipment or function as office spaces," said Seamons. "(The typhoon) damaged this training area, so we used the opportunity to sustain our skills as combat engineers."

The training was effective because Marines with varying levels of experience worked together to accomplish the mission, according to 1st Lt. David A. Padgett, a platoon commander with Company A.

"Some of the Marines just returned from Afghanistan and are able to use their experiences to help train the newer Marines," said Padgett. "It helps build camaraderie within the unit while getting some good training."

Combat engineers are an important asset to the Marine Corps, according to Lance Cpl. Kevin R. Sabatucci, a combat engineer with the battalion.

"We revitalize the areas for training operations, rebuild anything that has been destroyed, and build anything needed to accomplish the mission," said Sabatucci.

Many of the Marines enjoyed the opportunity to conduct hands-on training.

"It really brings out our unit cohesion," said Sabatucci. "We like to play around and have a good time, but we get down and dirty when it comes to getting the job done. I like the hands-on training, working with other Marines out in the field – it's a good environment."

Lance Cpl. Michael H. Alfaro cuts wood using a miter saw at the Central Training Area, near Camp Hansen, Oct. 3. Alfaro is a combat engineer with Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



In Theaters Now

OCTOBER 12-18

FOSTER

TODAY Looper (R), 6 p.m.; Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Won't Back Down (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 1 p.m.; Taken 2 (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Frankenweenie (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Taken 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Frankenweenie (PG), 6 p.m.; End of Watch (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Frankenweenie (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Looper (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Frankenweenie (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Looper (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Looper (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Dredd (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Dredd (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Resident Evil: Retribution (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Taken 2 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 2 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Dredd (R), 2 p.m.; End of Watch (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Frankenweenie (PG), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Taken 2 (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Trouble with the Curve (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Bourne Legacy (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Dredd (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Campaign (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Brave (PG), 3 p.m.; The Campaign (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG), 3 p.m.; The Campaign (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Taken 2 (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Won't Back Down (PG), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY The Campaign (R), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Dredd (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R), 2 p.m.; The Campaign (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Taken 2 (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
TUESDAY Taken 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Campaign (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Looper (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Dredd (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
SATURDAY End of Watch (R), 5 and 8 p.m.
SUNDAY Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG), 5 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmryexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

ASHIBINA OUTLET MALL TRIP: OCT. 27

• Join the SMP for a day of fun and shopping at the Ashibina Outlet Mall Oct. 27. A bus will leave Camp Foster Field House at 8:50 a.m., Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 9:20 a.m., and the Camp Kinser Gym at 9:40 a.m. Bring yen for shopping and lunch. Sign up by Oct. 25 to join the trip.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• Volunteers are needed for Fall swim meet #1 Oct. 20 from 5-11:30 a.m. at the Camp Foster 25-meter pool. Volunteers will help with set up, keeping time, cheering and break down of the event.

• Volunteers are needed Oct. 20 for Zombie Run 2012 starting at 7 a.m. at the Camp Foster parade field. Those interested will role-play as zombies during the event. To take part, contact 645-5639 or 645-1991.

• Volunteers are needed to assist with the Camp Kinser Half Marathon Oct. 21 from 5:30 a.m. to noon at the Camp Kinser Fitness Center. Volunteers will assist as road guards, with water points, and set up and break down the event.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

Japanese phrase
of the week:

“So desu ne”
(pronounced:
soh-dehs-neh)

means,

“That’s right!”



Oct. 1-5

RIFLE RANGE

Staff Sgt. Kennie Wade,
MHG, 339



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

“A humble spirit has a way of erasing years of damage.”

Clean up temper crash sites

Lt. Robert Bailey

MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172 CHAPLAIN

Have you ever hurt yourself or others due to losing your temper? The initial “acting out of anger” is bad enough, but the consequences of that anger can be even more devastating and many times, the primary victim is often one’s self. It’s like being in a “crash and burn” accident! Why not do an investigation and take inventory of the crash sites in your life and be determined to clean them up?

As you’re able, go back and repair the damage caused by your outbursts. I believe that a humble spirit has a way of erasing years of damage, especially when the Lord extends mercy. By God’s grace, you can often rebuild what you have destroyed and clean up your crash sites. However, I advise it’s far better to avoid a crash to begin with.

One of the saddest moments in sports happened during the closing minutes of the 1978 Gator Bowl between Clemson and Ohio State. Woody Hayes, the storied Ohio coach, went into the game with a

remarkable 238-71-10 record. He began coaching in 1946 after serving in the Navy during World War II, commanding ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. His career at Ohio State began in 1951 and during 28 seasons there, he won five national championships. Yet, late in the fourth quarter of that 1978 Gator Bowl, the Buckeyes were down by two points but driving toward the end zone. Coach Hayes called a pass play that Charlie Bauman, Clemson’s nose guard, intercepted. He was tackled out of bounds on the OSU sideline. To the astonishment of millions of people watching the game, Coach Hayes grabbed Bauman as he got to his feet and viciously struck him. The next day, Hayes was fired.

Perhaps the most surprising part of the story is that Hayes never apologized. One flash of anger, one moment of uncontrolled temper, and it was a crash and burn accident. Hayes made no attempt to clean up his crash site. His great legacy was tarnished forever.

Try not to crash, but if you do, move in quickly to investigate and clean up the crash site.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”